

High Peaks Audubon

Adirondack-Champlain Region of New York State

Mission: To conserve and restore natural ecosystems in the Adirondacks, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the Earth's biological diversity.

Volume 33 Number 5

December-February 2005-2006



Audubon's 106th Annual Christmas Bird Count



Would you like to make a difference for science and bird conservation in addition to having fun? If so, you may want to participate in National Audubon Society's longest-running wintertime tradition, the annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC). The 106th annual CBC will take place from December 14, 2005 to January 5, 2006. Approximately 55,000 volunteers of all skill levels are expected to take part in this year's early-winter census of birds.

When the Christmas Bird Count was initiated in 1900 by Frank Chapman and 26 other conservationists, it changed the course of ornithological history. The CBC provided an alternative to the "side hunt" of the time in which teams competed to see who could shoot the most birds. Instead, Chapman and the other conservationists identified, counted, and recorded all the birds they saw in 25 localities that Christmas Day in 1900, beginning what is now considered to be the world's most significant citizen-based conservation effort.

Last year, there was a record 2,022 individual "counts" held in North and South America. Each count group completes a census of the birds found during one 24-hour period between December 14 and January 5. The count territory is a circle with a diameter of 15 miles. Volunteers are given a map and a specific area within this territory to survey. Less experienced birders are teamed with more experienced birders, and young people are also highly encouraged to participate. Most teams begin at dawn, but there are always a few hardy folks in each count that begin during the night with an "owling" trip! Some volunteers living within circle territories choose to count the birds at their home as "feeder watchers". Any assistance in counting the birds is always greatly appreciated!

(Christmas Bird Count continued on page 46)

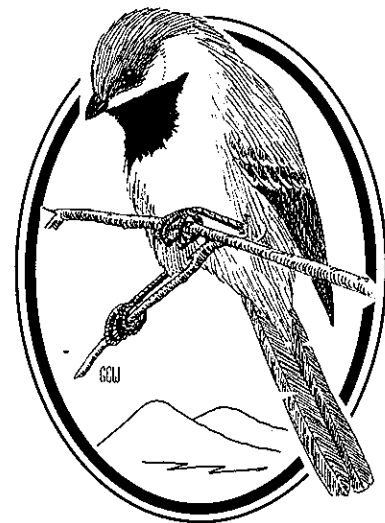
9th Annual Great Backyard Bird Count

**Count for the Birds in America's Great Backyard:
Feb 17-20, 2006**

- No Fee or registration required
- All ages and skill levels welcome
- Track results in real time online
- Count in your backyard, balcony, schoolyard, park, wildlife refuge
- Be a part of the network

Join with thousand of others to find out how many birds are being seen in your area and across the continent this winter. By participating in the Great Backyard Bird Count, you help document where birds are, and track changes in their numbers compared to previous years, helping scientists paint a picture of the state of birds this winter.

For more information, or to get started, go to <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/>



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High Peaks Audubon Society, Inc.
A chapter of National Audubon Society
serving the Adirondack/Champlain region
of northern New York, including Clinton,
Essex, Franklin and Hamilton counties.

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High Peaks Audubon Newsletter is published by
High Peaks Audubon Society, Inc.

Vol. 33

No. 5

(Christmas Bird Count continued from page 45)

The CBC data are recorded in the longest running database in ornithology, representing over a century of unbroken data on trends of early winter bird populations. The primary objective of the Christmas Bird Count is to monitor the status and distribution of bird populations across the Western Hemisphere. The information is also vital for conservation, with local trends in bird populations signaling potential problems with habitat fragmentation or an environmental threat. CBC data have documented declines in some species, and also expansions such as the northward range expansion of the Tufted Titmouse

Count results from 1900 to the present are available through National Audubon's website www.audubon.org/bird/cbc.

There are several annual National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Counts in our North Country. If you would like to volunteer, contact one of the compilers listed on the next page.

However you take part, whether on snowshoes, skis, or merely counting from your car with the window down, you will want to dress warmly and bring along plenty of food and water. I find a hot thermos of tea invaluable each year! Compilers often hold a social dinner event after the count at a restaurant or private home to compile the count data. If you do choose to participate in a CBC, enjoy your day of birding with the added knowledge that you are making a difference for science and bird conservation!

-Joan Collins

Editor's Note: This article is reprinted from the Press Republican in Plattsburgh with permission from Dennis Aprill.

Message from the President

We're approaching one of my favorite times of the year: Christmas Bird Count season. It's exciting to anticipate spending all of the short daylight hours in the woods on foot, snowshoes or skis trying to see all of the winter birds and hearty autumn hangers-on in an area. It's also fulfilling to know that our efforts contribute to a database of winter bird numbers and distribution gathered by volunteers during the 105 years of this tradition. There are now over 50,000 people participating in over 2000 count circles.

Certainly not the least of the enjoyment of a CBC is the count dinner. Sharing the warmth of the place and the food with old and new friends, who have similarly braved the elements all day, is very fulfilling. Trying to read the smiles on their faces or in their eyes to figure out who has the special bird this year is very exciting, and the results always interesting.



Pine Grosbeak by George West

There are several CBCs taking place in the North Country this year, the 106th. Look for the information about them in this Newsletter, and try to fit at least one into your busy holiday schedule. You won't be disappointed.

I hope to see you at a count dinner, and wish all of you and your families a lovely holiday season.

-Pat Thaxton



Christmas Bird Counts



Ferrisburg (VT/NY)

Saturday, December 17. After 25 years as compiler of the Ferrisburg VT/NY CBC, Alan Pistorius is taking a much-deserved retirement! Congratulations to Alan for his remarkable dedication to the Ferrisburg CBC! Mike Winslow has stepped forward to be the new compiler. If you would like to participate in the Ferrisburg CBC, contact Mike at (802) 877-6586 or mikekira@sover.net. There will be organizers helping out on the New York side of Lake Champlain near Westport. A count dinner will follow at the Rokeby Museum.

Plattsburgh (NY) CBC

Sunday, December 18. The center of this circle is at the Route 9 south and the former Plattsburgh Air Base entrance. Field workers should notify Judy Heintz at (518) 563-5273 or heintzjf@northnet.org before the 18th to obtain a territory. We do not meet on the morning of the count, but everyone has maps prior to the count day. We encourage those living within the circle that have feeders, and are unable to spend the day in the field, to participate by being feeder watchers. New participants are always welcome! Please contact Judy Heintz should you want to participate.

Elizabethtown (NY) CBC

Saturday, December 31. The 33rd annual Elizabethtown Christmas Bird Count will be held on Saturday, December 31st, 2005. This count circle includes a mix of forest, field, and Adirondack wilderness area, hosting a range of species from Rough-legged Hawk and Northern Shrike to Northern Saw-whet Owl and Boreal Chickadee. All of the winter finches (and Bohemian Waxwing) have been recorded on multiple occasions in this count's thirty-two year history, so you never know what might turn up! We will be missing some of our E'town stalwarts this year, so if you've never done this count before or haven't done it for several years, this year would be a great one to join us. For more information, please contact Matt Medler at (802) 999-1438 or mdm2@cornell.edu. We look forward to seeing you on the 31st!

Saranac Lake (NY) CBC

Sunday, January 1. This will be the 50th year of this count! Please participate and help celebrate this historic milestone! Meet at Howard Johnson's on Route 86 in Lake Placid at 7:00 a.m. sharp, or (preferably) contact the compiler, Larry Master (518-523-2214; larry_master@naturereserve.org) ahead of time if you plan to participate. A festive count dinner will be held at the home of the compiler in Lake Placid on Sunday evening, January 1. The key to seeing a lot of birds on this count is the number of observers both in



White-winged Crossbill
by George West

the field and at feeders. So please take part, if only to report on birds visiting your backyard feeders.

The count is centered in Ray Brook and includes the villages of Lake Placid and Bloomingdale, as well as some nice boreal forest areas with resident Goshawks, Barred and Saw-whet Owls, Black-backed and Three-toed Woodpeckers, Gray Jays, and Boreal Chickadees. Over the 49 years

of the count, a total of 93 species have been observed on the count (including 4 count week-only species). Some highlights of past counts have included Three-toed Woodpecker (7 times), Great Gray and Hawk owls, American Bittern, Bohemian Waxwing (1/4 of counts), Hoary Redpoll (recently every other year), Red Crossbill (1/3 of counts), White-winged Crossbill (2/3 of counts), Pine Grosbeak (2/3 of counts), and North American record numbers of several finch species.

2005-2006 Nominating Committee

Chairperson: Patricia H. Thaxton
jpthax5317@aol.com or (518) 576-4232

Nominating Committee Members:
Charlotte Demers cdemers@esf.edu or (518) 582-2157
John Brown jbbrown@northnet.org

2005-2006 Committee Chairs

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Publicity: open
Social: open
Web Master: Dana Rohleder dcrohleder@yahoo.com

January Board Meeting

The January Board of Directors meeting will be held on Saturday, January 7, 2006 from 10 a.m. to noon at Lake Forest in Plattsburgh. Members are welcome.

January & February Field Trips

Saturday, January 21, 2006 Ski Trip to Marcy Dam/Avalanche Camp

Time: 10 a.m.

Description: Ski from South Meadow on the Marcy Dam Truck Road 3 miles to Marcy Dam and, conditions permitting, another mile to Avalanche Camp. A moderate ski, this trip will include beautiful views of Mt. Colden and Avalanche Pass from Marcy Dam, where hungry Black-Capped Chickadees expect to be fed sunflower seeds and land on your hand to get them. From Marcy Dam, Avalanche Camp is a moderate uphill ski on the hiking trail, and if the snow is right, a wonderful, controllable, glide down. The trails are not groomed for skiing.

Bring: Appropriate layers of apparel for the weather and temperature, skis, water, lunch or snacks.

Meet: At South Meadow Parking Lot (left turn off Adirondack Loj Road to the end).

Leaders: HPAS members Pat & John Thaxton

Registration: Contact Pat & John Thaxton: (518) 576-4232, (212) 475-5317 (voice mail), email: jpthax5317@aol.com



Saturday, February 18, 2006 Ski Trip to Santanoni Great Camp

Time: 11 a.m.

Description: A lovely, moderate-level ski to a storied destination, this ten-mile round-trip is a classic Adirondack winter journey to an historic Great Camp. The dirt road trail is not groomed for skiing.

Bring: Appropriate layers of apparel for the weather and temperature, skis, water, lunch or snacks.

Meet: At the parking lot for the Santanoni Great Camp off Route 28N in Newcomb.

Leaders: HPAS members Pat & John Thaxton

Registration: Contact Pat & John Thaxton: 518.576.4232, 212.475.5317 (voice mail), email: jpthax5317@aol.com

Saturday, February 25, 2006 Snowshoe at the Newcomb VIC

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Description: The group will observe the bird feeders from the great room window of the Center before heading out on the many trails around the Newcomb VIC.

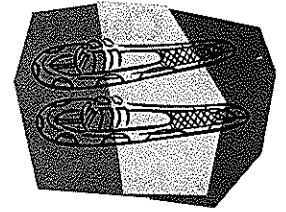
Bring: Appropriate layers of apparel for winter weather and temperature, snowshoes (there may be snowshoes available at the VIC), water, lunch or snacks.

Meet: Inside the Newcomb VIC.

Leaders: HPAS members Joan Collins & Amy Freiman

Registration: Call the Newcomb VIC at (518) 582-2000.

Jointly sponsored by High Peaks Audubon Society and the Visitor Interpretive Center at Newcomb.



Attention All 12 to 17 Year-Olds! Essay Contest for: Camp Colby and Pack Forest Camp

High Peaks Audubon Society (HPAS) is sponsoring an essay contest to send two children from the North Country to summer camp in 2006: one child to Camp Colby, and an older child to the DEC's Pack Forest Environmental Education Camp in Warrensburg. The DEC's rules stipulate that children who have attended camp once may apply for a second summer, but cannot attend more than twice at any one camp.

Camp Colby, a week-long residential camp for children ages 12 to 14 years, teaches children many aspects about the outdoors, from canoeing and hiking to aquatic studies and hunter training safety courses.

The Pack Forest camp is for teens, ages 15 to 17 years. It offers them a chance to explore forestry, aquatic biology, wildlife management, field ecology and other environmental issues. Optional activities include fly-fishing, canoeing, hiking, swimming, shooting sports, and orienteering.

For both camps, HPAS is sponsoring an essay contest. To apply, each interested child needs to submit a one-page essay about why he or she would like to attend camp. Essays need to be postmarked by 2 January 2006 and sent to: Ellen Rathbone, Education Coordinator, High Peaks Audubon Society, 47 Sanford Land, Newcomb, NY 12852. All submitted essays will be reviewed by the HPAS Education Committee, and one will be selected each for Camp Colby and Pack Forest. The winners will be informed of their selection by 31 January 2006. Winning essays will be published in the HPAS newsletter.

Children who win the essay contest are required to submit the official DEC camp application form. This form, and information about the camps, can be found at <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/education/>. Parents (or guardians) are responsible for transporting children to and from camp.

Who can apply: children who live within the North Country; children whose grandparents live within the North Country (e.g.: grandkids who visit their grandparents for the summer).

Deadline: essays need to be postmarked no later than 2 January 2006.

Important Bird Area Spotlight: Moose River Plains/Blue Ridge Area Hamilton & Herkimer Counties

305,000 acres
1,380-3,680' elevation

Description: This large, relatively intact tract of forest is mostly state-owned and includes the Moose River Plains Wild Forest and Blue Ridge Wilderness Area. The area includes the watershed of the Moose River, a tributary of the Black River. It is generally undisturbed and includes numerous mountains with sub-alpine habitats as well as lakes and ponds. The area holds a diverse group of productive habitats, including dense stands of mixed growth woodlands, flat lands, open woodlands, and black spruce bogs. According to the NY GAP land cover data, approximately 95% of the site is forest, which includes sugar maple, evergreen northern hardwood, deciduous wetland, evergreen plantation, spruce fir, and evergreen wetland forests.

Birds: This area contains some of the best lowland boreal forests and wetlands in the western Adirondacks, and is on the southern periphery of the range of many boreal forest birds. The area supports a number of characteristic boreal birds including the Black-backed Woodpecker, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Gray Jay, Common Raven, and Boreal Chickadee. Within the area there are a number of mountains over 3,500 feet in elevation, and breeding Bicknell's Thrushes have been documented. The area contained the state's last known natural Golden Eagle nesting site.

Conservation: Much of this area has been state designated a Wild Forest and Wilderness Area and is popular for outdoor recreation such as snowmobiling, camping, hiking, fishing, and hunting. Privately-owned portions of this site should be protected from forest-fragmenting development. Sustainable forest management on the private holdings has potential to provide habitat for species requiring successional forest habitats or disturbed forests. Snowmobiling is particularly popular, with 30,000-40,000 visitors participating per year. Illegal ATV use seems to be increasing. More research is needed on whether bird populations are negatively impacted by the current types and levels of recreational use. Acid rain has had a negative impact on the forest and lake ecosystems, though its long-term effects on birds are unclear. Acid rain deposition may be having an impact on the nesting success of songbirds, particularly at high elevation, by killing snails and other edible sources of calcium needed for egg production. More research is needed on this as well. The curtailment of sulphur dioxide emissions and the reduction of acid rain is currently a significant New York State initiative. A detailed inventory and standardized monitoring of at risk species is needed for the area. Specifically, peaks above 2,800 feet should be surveyed for Bicknell's Thrush.

Hiking/Canoeing Opportunities:

Trails:

- Helldiver Pond
- Icehouse Pond
- Lost Ponds
- Beaver Lake
- Rock Dam
- Pillsbury Mountain – just outside the Moose River Recreational Area

Canoeing:

- Cedar River Flow



*Editor's Note: The "Description", "Birds", and "Conservation" sections above were reprinted from the new book **Important Bird Areas of New York** (second edition) by Michael F. Burger and Jillian M. Liner (Audubon New York) with permission.*

Another Exciting June Planned!

Adirondack Birding Celebration

The 4th annual "Adirondack Birding Celebration" will once again be held on the first weekend in June from Friday, June 2 to Sunday, June 4, 2006. This year, the Celebration will be headquartered back at the Paul Smith's Visitor Interpretive Center.

Adirondack Birding Festival

The 2nd annual "Adirondack Birding Festival" will be held from Thursday, June 8 to Sunday, June 11, 2006. The Hamilton County Tourism Office is once again sponsoring this Hamilton County wide event.

More detailed information on both events will be published in the March-May issue of High Peaks Audubon Newsletter.

HPAS Newsletter Editor Still Needed

A new Editor for the High Peaks Audubon Newsletter is still needed starting with the June-August quarterly issue. The Newsletter is the main vehicle of communication with members, and is a vital part of the Chapter. If you are interested in sharing your talents by taking on this important role, please contact Joan Collins at joanc@telenet.net, or (315) 261-4246. Thank you!

Camp Pack Forest Experience

Woody Cyr sent the following description of his camp experience this past summer at the DEC's Camp Pack Forest:

Thanks to the High Peaks Audubon I was able to spend a week at the DEC Pack Forest Camp for returning campers. As I walked up to the registration table at Camp Pack Forest I was greeted at Camp Pack Forest by a good friend who I met last year at camp. Because of this pleasant surprise I knew that a good week at camp was ready to begin.

One of the best activities that we did was a presentation about alternative sources of fuel for cars.

A man came to camp and told us all in depth about the different possibilities such as solar power, hybrids, electric, natural oils that we can grow, and hydrogen fuel cells. All of this was extremely interesting to me. Then we were able to ride in hybrid and electric cars driven by the counselors. That is an experience I will never forget!



Another program was about using canines to track poached deer and catch the poachers. The conservation officers did a demonstration with the canine's venison seeking ability, with venison hidden in a plastic bag behind a large number of paint cans. The dog was able to find the venison even among the smelly paint cans.

One day a lady came from the wildlife center in Newcomb with a couple of raptors. She had brought a Red-tailed Hawk and a Great Horned Owl. She told us all about both the birds and about the raptor program. All the birds in the program were disabled beyond being able to function in the wild. The birds are used in breeding programs. When the workers feed the baby raptors they use a puppet bird head to prevent the birds from imprinting on humans. Since I am a bird banding volunteer this was one of the highlights of my week.

For three days and two nights I chose to go canoe-camping in the Saint Regis Canoe Area. We camped on Follensby Clear Pond and paddled over to Horseshoe Pond as well as Big and Little Pollywog Ponds. It was great to see loons with chicks. The moon was full and beautiful both nights. But the best part was that I got to paddle a canoe with my friend Mark. We have made plans to get together this winter for some ice fishing out where Mark lives on Oswego Lake.

I learned a lot at camp, made new friends, and had a great time. But best of all I got to laugh a lot with everybody. Thanks again for making this experience possible.

-Woody Cyr

Poetry Corner

Come In

As I came to the edge of the woods,
Thrush music--hark!
Now if it was dusk outside,
Inside it was dark.

Too dark in the woods for a bird
By sleight of wing
To better its perch for the night,
Though it still could sing.

The last of the light of the sun
That had died in the west
Still lived for one song more
In a thrush's breast.

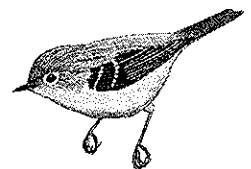
Far in the pillared dark
Thrush music went--
Almost like a call to come in
To the dark and lament.

But no, I was out for stars;
I would not come in.
I meant not even if asked;
And I hadn't been.

-Robert Frost

Nun-da-ga-o Ridge: Always a good hike

On Saturday, September 17th, we set a speed record for this six-mile loop that has taken us from two-and-a-half to six hours, depending on weather conditions and how much time we spent birding. We managed to complete the hike in nine hours, a speed record we owe to a new birder, who stopped to study every bird until it got bored with us and flew away. We must have seen fifteen families of Ruby-crowned kinglets, which all but attacked when we pished, as well as Black-throated blue, Black-throated green and Yellow-rumped warblers. We had excellent, extremely close looks at Winter wren and Blue-headed vireo. Surprisingly, Boreal chickadee, which disappeared from the south trail up Hurricane Mountain for the past four years, showed up all along Nun-da-ga-o Ridge in mixed flocks with Black-capped chickadee.



Ruby-crowned Kinglet
by George West

Although numerous cairns make following the ridge fairly easy, Nun-da-ga-o, a long semicircular ridge with numerous panoramic views (great hawk-watching spots during migration), is not an officially marked trail, which makes it a good choice for busy summer and autumn weekends.

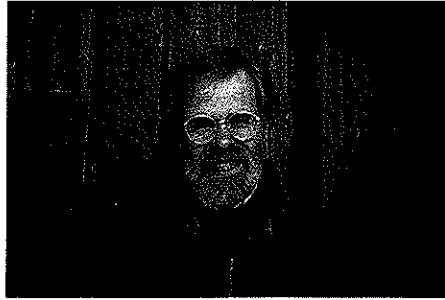
The trail begins at the Crows parking lot, taking off either on the way up to the Crows, or behind the Biesemeyer lean-to at Lost Pond towards Weston Mountain.

-Pat & John Thaxton

Bio of a Birder: John Brown

Age: 65

Birthplace: "I was born in Westchester County, but at the age of two, I was adopted by Adirondack natives, and grew up in Tupper Lake in the forties and fifties."



Occupation: "For thirty years I was a professor of biology and ecology at Paul Smith's College, and retired just this year."

Inspiration: "I had no great mentor to whom I can trace my interest in birds and wildlife. My most important inspiration was growing up in the Adirondacks. Our family had a camp, where we stayed every year, some years all but in the depths of winter. My nearly daily forays outdoors I considered adventures, but I was always interested in seeing and learning about new things, which then and now include just about anything: plants, animals, soil and water, whatever."

"As an ecology professor, I was very interested in trying to inspire. In my courses I always tried to convey an understanding not only of how things fit together, but the importance of maintaining these natural processes, and the importance of habitat. My favorite courses – for me, and also for my students – have been a summer course in Adirondack field ecology and a course in tropical ecology, which included a trip to Belize every Christmas break."

Activities: "I still belong to a number of professional organizations, including the Ecological Society of America (ESA), Society for Conservation Biology, and the NY State chapter of the Wildlife Society. I've participated over the years mainly by attending their meetings all over the country. Most years I spend two or three weeks, to be able to explore natural areas around the meeting site. For example, at the ESA meeting in Tucson three years ago, I was up before first light every day to explore the desert until it became too hot at midday."

"Several years ago, I spent a semester at the Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants at the University of Florida, learning about what an invasive species basket case Florida is. Since then, I've been a member of the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program Working Group. Also in the Adirondacks, I've volunteered for the Cooperative Loon Research Project. I've been a member of the board of the Residents' Committee to Protect the Adirondacks for several years."

Most exciting Birding Observation in the Adirondacks: "This occurred many years ago on the Colvin Range trail in

the High Peaks, when what today we call a Bicknell's thrush dropped onto the trail directly in my path. My 1947 edition of Peterson told me it was a gray-cheeked thrush, and though a Bicknell's subspecies was mentioned in an appendix, in those days I was not really tuned in to such nuances."

"Not considering myself a birder, but a bird watcher, what made this observation exciting was not so much seeing this bird, but what it did. It dropped one wing in a broken-wing display. This did not have the "desired" (trying to be scientific here) effect on my behavior, which in these circumstances is to stand still and see what'll happen. This very agitated bird, after looking back at me several times, then dropped its other wing. Fortunately for me and the bird, the traffic on High Peaks' trails was much lighter in those days."

"My most exciting *wildlife* observation happened at the Paul Smith's VIC, when a fisher climbed a few feet up a balsam fir not far away, turned and bared its teeth at me, after I had inadvertently foiled its capture of a snowshoe hare. I'd much rather have seen it catch the hare."

Education: "All my early education was in the North Country: Tupper Lake High School, then St. Lawrence University. What followed was an ill-advised practical phase in my life, when I got an MBA in finance from Cornell, and worked in banking and college administration. After coming to my senses, I took more biology courses at Cornell (I had started college in pre-med) and in 1973 received a second Masters in behavioral ecology from Purdue, where I studied coyotes."

Become A Member of HPAS Just \$15 a year

Benefits include: quarterly newsletter, program meetings, field trips, Great Adirondack Birding Festival, CBCs and more...

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Message from the Editor

The fall of 2005 has certainly been the warmest I can remember. Winter seems to become milder each year. Our rapidly warming planet is worrisome, as are the unpredictable effects of Global Climate Change.

On a more cheerful topic, I look forward to seeing which species will show up in our area this winter. Here in Potsdam, I have been observing Rough-legged Hawks and Northern Shrikes. Evening Grosbeaks have been intermittent feeder visitors. A small flock of Common Redpolls flew over me a few days ago. This should be the (every-other-year) irruptive year for redpolls, but since we had a small irruption last year, it will be interesting to see what happens this winter.

I attended the **NYS Ornithological Association's (NYSOA) Annual Meeting** this past September in Albany hosted by the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club. Our chapter has not been sponsoring a member to attend these yearly meetings, but I have been attending out of interest.

There were four workshops held on Friday night: Digiscoping, Adopting an IBA, ebird, and the Mountain Birdwatch project.

A three hour business meeting was held on Saturday morning. The only vote our chapter cast this year was for the slate of officers and board members of NYSOA. There were 27 items on the agenda - many reports were given: by the President (Kevin McGowan finished his term, and now Andy Mason is Pres.), DEC rep, Atlas update, Conservation report, field trips report, etc. Governance of the organization is still being discussed. Ninety percent of the membership money taken in by NYSOA goes to the state for bird club memberships, yet the bird clubs still receive a portion. Conservation is working on a NYSOA special complex issue of wind power.

Saturday afternoon was dedicated to the "Papers Session". Kevin McGowan gave an interesting presentation on his analysis of the Atlas data. There have been many range shifts and/or declines/increases in some species since the last Atlas during the early 1980s. Kevin gave us insight into how he is analyzing the changes. Other topics included: Golden-winged Warblers, Albany's Inland Pitch Pine Scrub Oak barrens, Incubation Rhythms and Blues (on Eastern Bluebird behavior), increasing Common Tern numbers and productivity on NY's Great Lakes and Rivers through colony management and enhancement, and the annual poetry reading by Maxwell Wheat. David Bird, of McGill, was the featured speaker Saturday night.

I also attended the **Audubon Council of New York State's Fall Meeting** in Ithaca this past October. The Council board met Friday afternoon. Brian Sullivan, from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, was the Friday evening speaker, and gave a presentation on "ebird".

On Saturday morning, a panel discussion on bird conservation in New York State featured Ken Rosenberg on "Partners in Flight", Kevin McGowan on "Breeding Bird Atlas", and Jillian Liner on "Important Bird Areas". Following the panel discussion, each delegate gave a 3-minute presentation on their chapter's activities. Participants also had a tour of the Lab and attended afternoon workshops. Tim Gallagher gave a presentation on the "Ivory Billed Woodpecker" following dinner Saturday night.

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